

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Fairbanks North Star Borough****Project Title:**

# **Fairbanks North Star Borough - Ester Volunteer Fire Department Fire Station Addition**

**State Funding Requested: \$ 300,000****House District: 8 - D**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

The EVFD Fire Station Addition Project will complete a critical expansion of the current facility, providing housing for up to six resident firefighters and apparatus bay (garage) space for three emergency response vehicles.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$2,525,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
State Funds	\$1,725,000	FY02 - FY07				
Local Funds	\$500,000	FY07 - FY08				
Total	\$2,225,000					

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:****The Department**

The Ester Volunteer Fire Department is a full service fire, rescue, hazardous materials response, and EMS provider. The 30 volunteers provide emergency services to 3500 residents in the Ester Fire Service Area. Our district contains residential and commercial buildings, major electrical infrastructure serving all of Fairbanks, the only railroad into the interior, and the busiest highway in Alaska, the George Parks Highway. Through cooperative agreements with other borough and city departments, EVFD can be called up to provide Fire and EMS services to nearly 100,000 Alaskans.

**The Need**

The critical expansion of the current fire station is required to meet the growing demands for emergency services in one of the fastest growing areas of Interior Alaska. New home construction in the district is outpacing neighboring communities and AKDTPF predicts the area will grow nearly 70% in population over the next 15 years.

The expansion will house the equipment, apparatus, and firefighters needed to answer a call volume that has increased by 500% since the fire station was built. Equipment space is needed to house additional water tenders which are key to extinguishing blazes in an area where the closest hydrant is 5 miles away. Resident volunteer firefighters who live in the fire station are a proven tool (nationwide) used to increase the emergency response capabilities to the public.

**The Project**

The project, as designed, will increase the size of the apparatus bay, and add a small dormitory area to the existing station for live in volunteer firefighters. The bays will accommodate apparatus that currently sit outside and increase space for apparatus to be delivered in 2010. The living quarters will replace the 40 year old ATCO unit that firefighters currently can not live in due to poor building conditions. The project was conceived, and first requested over 18 years ago to be an economical, efficient way to address the growth of the department and district, and has now become a vital need for the health and welfare of the area residents.

**Current Progress**

This project has been estimated to cost \$2.525 million, of which the department has raised \$2.225M in grants and appropriations in the last six years. The project will be going out to bid in March with a package that will build the apparatus bay but only provides shelled out space for the dormitories. We are seeking the rest of the funding to construct this necessary project.

**Project Timeline:**

March 15, 2008: Going to bid  
May, 2008: Ground breaking  
October, 2008: Project Completion

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Ester Volunteer Fire Department

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Cameron Wohlford, Fire Chief  
Phone Number: 907-479-6858  
Address: PO Box 229, Ester, AK 99725  
Email: chief@esterfire.org

**Funds for this project are located in the Governor's FY09 Budget:**

No

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No